

(Note: A full recording of this EAR Task Force meeting can be requested by contacting the Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, Planning Division)

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The meeting commenced at 10:12. Ms. Kim Brown started with opening remarks and introduced County staff. She noted that the Aquifer Recharge presentation would be moved to the January task force meeting due to a staff scheduling conflict. The following County elected official and County staff were present:

- Mayor Daniella Levine Cava
- Roy Coley, Chief Utilities and Regulatory Services Officer
- Eddie Kirtley, Assistant County Attorney
- Lourdes Gomez, Director, Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER)
- Jerry Bell, Assistant Director of Planning (RER)
- Kimberly Brown, Chief, Long Range and Neighborhood Planning (RER)
- Alex Dambach, Planning Development Manager (RER)
- Manuel Armada, Chief, Planning Research Section Supervisor (RER)
- Lisa Spadafina, Assistant Director, Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM)
- James Duncan, Chief, Urban Forest and Tree Division (DERM)
- Lazaro Quintero, Manager, Tree and Forest Resources Section (RER)
- Martha Garcia Lastre, Senior Manager, Natural Resources Division (RER)

Other agencies represented:

- Christina Miskis, South Florida Regional Planning Council
- Larry Ventura, Homestead Air Reserve Base

## Roll Call

The following Task Force members were in attendance:

- Task Force Member Lucia Soria (Agricultural Practices Advisory Board)
- Task Force Member Martin Motes (Redland Citizens Association)
- Task Force Member Kerri Barsh (Miami-Dade Limestone Products Association)
- Task Force Member Jeffrey Bercow (Builders Association of South Florida)
- Task Force Member David Tolbert (Dade County Farm Bureau)
- Task Force Member William Delgado (Latin American Business Association)
- Task Force Member Tom Roth (Urban Land Institute - Southeast Florida/Caribbean)
- Task Force Member Richard Grosso (Friends of the Everglades)
- Task Force Member Annie Lord (Miami Homes for All)
- Task Force Member Ilona Vega (Miami-Dade Beacon Council)
- Task Force Member Elizabeth Fata Carpenter (Everglades Law Center)
- Task Force Member Christianah Oyenuga (The Nature Conservancy)

- Task Force Member Aaron DeMayo (American Institute of Architects - Local Chapter)
- Task Force Member David Rutledge (Laborers' International Union of North America - Local Chapter)
- Task Force Member Lisa Greer (South Dade Chamber of Commerce)
- Task Force Member Martin Motes (Redland Citizens Association)
- Task Force Member Craig Grossenbacher (Miami Waterkeeper)

The following Task Force members were absent:

- Task Force Member Paul Owens (1000 Friends of Florida)
- Task Force Member Steven Leidner (Sierra Club)
- Task Force Member G. Eric Knowles (Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce)
- Task Force Member Jeffrey Mitchell (South Florida AFL-CIO)
- Task Force Member Pedro Portela (Latin Builders Association)
- Task Force Member Curtis Osceola (Miccosukee Tribe of Florida)
- Task Force Member Danielle Blake (Miami Association of Realtors)
- Task Force Member Norie del Valle (United Way Miami)

## Welcome by Mayor Daniella Levine Cava

Mayor Levine Cava noted that billions of dollars have already been spent to protect our critical ecosystems, but we know that more is needed. She highlighted our critical pine rocklands that now comprise less than 2% of what once existed outside of Everglades National Park threatening the viability of the species that inhabit those areas, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. She also noted that Biscayne Bay has reached a critical tipping point that threatens its \$64 billion in economic value to our community.

She expressed gratitude to the Governor on his announcements related to improvements that will benefit Biscayne Bay. She also highlighted the work of the County's Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board that complements the work of the EAR Task Force. We are also underway with the Reasonable Assurance Plan that will address nutrient loading to the Bay.

The health of Biscayne Bay and the Everglades is inextricably linked to our community's health and wellbeing and the decisions we make about growth. We must consider through the work of this task force, that we are living in a unique environment and that we have irreplaceable natural resources that are critically important. At the same time we know we need to invest in housing, transit and infrastructure our neighborhoods need to thrive. She expressed her gratitude to the Task Force members for taking on the task of balancing what can sometimes be conflicting goals.

## Reasonable Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

Paul Lambert with Lambert Advisory (100 Biscayne Boulevard) Requested that all presentations and materials be uploaded to the County website in a timely manner. He also requested that data sets related to the County's land supply be made available to the public.

Lauren Jonaitis Executive Director with the Tropical Audubon Society (5530 Sunset Drive) noted the importance of safeguarding land needed for Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) efforts, specifically including BBSEER. It is one of the most important restoration efforts for our County's future. The CDMP contains conflicts that I hope this task force can resolve, specifically those area where UEAs extend into CERP areas. These conflicts put restoration at continued risk. UEAs should instead be located along transit corridors not in areas needed for restoration. She noted that the CDMP lists Pennsuco Wetlands and Bird Drive Wetlands as areas that shall not be considered for expansion of the UDB. We need to make sure that these areas are protected from all development and noted that the SR-836 extension goes through those areas. She recommended that the Task Force consider recommendations to remove UEAs from areas needed for BBSEER and strengthen protection of lands within the CERP footprints. She inquired about the process for submitting written comments. Ms. Brown noted that speakers are welcome to submit 30 copies of written material for distribution during the reasonable opportunity.

Daniel Mlodozienec, Education Director with the Tropical Audubon Society (5530 Sunset Drive) – he encouraged the Task force to strengthen protections for Wetlands of Regional Significance and noted the important benefits they provide including water storage, flood reduction, aquifer recharge, everglades restoration. The Audubon Society continues to see development applications within or near these important areas. If the CDMP does not clearly prevent development in these areas or if policies are applied inconsistently, there is risk of undermining decades of public investment and long-term resilience goals. He urged the task force to: 1) affirm that these wetlands are inappropriate for urban development, and 2) ensure CDMP policies protect land needed for everglades restoration, water supply, and flood protection. It is essential to safety, water security and economic resilience.

Kylie Gill - Education Intern with the Tropical Audubon Society (5530 Sunset Drive) – Ms. Gill reinforced the importance of upholding the UDB and protecting lands outside of it. She stated that the County should accommodate growth by prioritizing and incentivizing redevelopment within our existing urban footprint which strengthens existing communities and directs growth to areas where infrastructure already exists resulting in lower taxpayer cost, more efficient public services, revitalized neighborhoods, stronger transit and communities that are more resilient and connected to jobs. Sprawl strains infrastructure,

increases congestion, heightens flood risk, and destroys natural land that protects our water supply and supports everglades restoration. Promoting infill by allowing greater intensity near transit, reducing parking requirements, expediting review of redevelopment projects, and offering targeted density increases can help to direct investments where most needed.

Laura Reynolds with Hold the Line Coalition and representing the Town of Culter Bay on the CERP BBSEER effort, which is celebrating 25 years of Everglades restoration. Restoration is being delayed because USACE is now requiring a significant portion of the engineering to be complete before projects moves forward. She stated that the County needs to be a better partner by protecting the land and buying it from willing sellers. If a project is in the CERP Yellow Book, it should be off limits for development. The CDMP policies are currently insufficient. The space outside of the UDB is essential for providing flood protection as part of the restoration efforts, otherwise it doesn't get cleaned and it doesn't get to the southern portion of the County. Think 50 to 100 years into the future when our biggest problem is flooding and sea level rise. She urged the task force to make sure the CERP footprint is protected within the CDMP and noted that what we have now is too weak. Without the UDB being a strong policy, we would not have had federal funding of CERP.

Dave Doebler Co-Chair of Biscayne Bay Marine Health Summit – He serves on the County's Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board. This organization is working to implement the over 70 recommendations of the prior Biscayne Bay Task Force report. Recommendation #1H of the report recommended CDMP amendment to include Biscayne Bay watershed management elements. Mr. Doebler stated that we can't fix Biscayne Bay without clean, fresh water coming from the Everglades. Protecting wetlands is critical to protecting Biscayne Bay and we need to remove CERP wetlands that are in CERP Tentatively Selected Plans from future development. He encouraged the task force to consider Biscayne Bay in their deliberations.

## Approval of November 21, 2025 Meeting Summary

Ms. Brown read proposed amendments into the record that including removing Ms. Greer from the list of present members and adding comments from Ms. Oyenuga regarding the County's Urban Design Manual. Task Force Member Martin Motes motioned to adopt the Minutes as amended. Task Force Member David Rutledge seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

## Staff Coordinator's Report

### Public Outreach Survey and Meetings

Ms. Brown provided an overview of the public outreach flyer that was provided as a handout. She reiterated that the task force members are invited to attend all meetings but that staff would follow up with summaries of the comments received at those workshops. Ms. Brown provided an overview of the draft EAR survey that was provided as a handout. The following recommendations were provided on the draft survey:

- Add “natural resource based recreation and tourism” to Question #1 Opportunities
- Add “transit” to Question #1 Opportunities
- Clarify whether “insurance costs” under Question #1 Obstacles refers to property insurance
- Add water supply under Question #1 Obstacles
- Add unsustainable development under Question #1 Obstacles
- Add pollution including septic under Question #1 Obstacles
- Add housing loss to foreign investment under Question #1 Obstacles
- Define “workforce” in #3 but keep it broad
- Add ecotourism hubs to Question #10

## Presentations

### Development Considerations: Land Supply and Demand Analysis (carryover from 11/21/25 agenda)

Mr. Manuel Armada, Chief, Planning Research Section provided a presentation on land supply and demand analysis. It provided a fairly detailed overview on the Planning Division's Research Section's methodologies for determining residential land capacity and demand, population projections, non-residential land capacity and demand.

### Task Force Discussion

Mr. Grosso followed up the presentation with questions to Mr. Armada about why the population projections do not take the State's Live Local policy into consideration. Mr. Armada responded by explaining that the decision has been not to do that because the state policy, while it does have the potential to increase capacity for many projects, at this time is a “speculative” factor. Currently the County has 11 applications for a total of approximately 3,700 units. Therefore, the Research Section has made the decision to maintain the

assumption regarding development potential to the density and intensity that exists within the CDMP and other local policies and regulations.

Mr. Grosso further inquired about population projections and if those projections were low because it seems common that applicants dispute those numbers. Mr. Armada responded by acknowledging that the population estimates fluctuate and that disputes are common. However, the Census has generally accepted the County's numbers and observed that land often assumed to be undevelopable eventually does develop over time.

Mr. Bercow commented that many municipalities had adopted "poison pills" that make it nearly impossible for developers to use the Live Local Act. Regarding previous comments on affordability, traditional laws of economics suggest that if you restrict supply, it seems to increase the price of whatever that something is. Mr. Bercow shared some articles from the *New York Times* and *The Atlantic* that raise question of whether raising the restrictions on development raise the costs, encouraging the group to consider the economic debate.

Mr. Bercow also expressed concern around multifamily residential supply, stating that it goes well beyond 2040. However, the County has a significant portion of the working population aged 25-40 who want to live in a single-family-home, but do not want to live in a multi-family apartment or condo, and those people are getting priced out and they're leaving. He stated that he thought this task force should explore if provisions of the county plan should lump single-family and multi-family supply together.

Mr. Armada responded to these points by explaining that housing is a bundled good. This assertion acknowledges that the forces of supply and demand are important economic forces. However, if one was to simply add more supply of housing in a concentrated area, it is not certain to decrease for housing in that area due to the fact that housing, as a bundled good, responds to various demands including location, transportation/commute requirements, desired amenities, etc. Currently, demand from young families does seem to prefer single-family homes; however, they are also looking into multiple bedrooms. Also, the units that are being proposed in recent projects, in general, are not affordable.

Mr. Roth asked as to Miami-Dade County's view on Live Local and "poison pills" in incorporated areas in the County that is preventing Live Local from taking effect. In short, is there a policy that is inhibiting Live Local projects from being developed?

Lourdes Gomez, RER Director, responded that the Board of County Commissioners has no specific policy amounting to a poison pill. However, when Live Local applications come in, the BCC does require that it is notified.

As far as Live Local impacting supply and demand, this is not a driver because we have more than 40 years of multi-family residential supply and Live Local is a policy that is strictly addressing multi-family housing typology. The real pinch point is in single-family housing. The reluctance to incorporating Live Local into formulas for population estimates that Mr. Armada uses is that the predictive models must factor in the existing zoning regulations, such as setbacks, height, etc. that still influence what can be built in Live Local and that varies parcel by parcel. At this time, the decision has been not to modify the method, because that method could be challenged. Over time, that could change.

Mr. Roth asked about how RTZ zoning impacted the methodologies. Are you accounting for those instances when a property in the City of Miami changes from City zoning to County RTZ?

Mr. Armada stated that over time, when population estimates get updated, those zoning changes are factored in and the population estimates are updated accordingly.

Mr. Roth asked about single-family and multi-family, vacant, and proposed redevelopment, and how they breakdown.

Mr. Armada stated that, when being analyzed, these uses are broken down. However, when reported, the uses are aggregated. Proposed developments are almost all multi-development. Single-family developments are almost all on vacant land. This information is available in the package.

Mr. DeMayo stated that it can be difficult to make assumptions or predictions on outlier areas, but there could be an opportunity to develop a small variable for target locations particularly around transit where you're already doing an RTZ factor. It might be helpful for analyzing a certain proximity to certain levels of transit to include that as a target goal for a policy for Live Local. Mr. Armada felt this was an idea worth exploring. Mr. DeMayo continued by asking if there was data on population trends that show people who are living in one housing type moving to different housing types. Mr. Armada answered that there are not really any reliable data on this topic. In the absence of these data, one must make estimates. There are other factors at play in migration patterns. One reason people do not move is to hold on to low interest rates.

Mayor Levine-Cava shared that property tax reform is currently being debated at the state-level, and the issue of portability could address this issue. Another point is the Miami-Dade County has one of, if not the lowest home-ownership rate in the country. This leads to more multi-generational living quarters. The actions of the legislature has the potential to shift the market. Mr. Armada added that one additional County policy that can influence the housing crisis is the ADUs.

Ms. Barsh asked about the demand for industrial and if they were countywide or based on MSA. Mr. Armada stated the demand was for all MSAs and regardless of UDB. Quarries are considered industrial, but, because the work of quarries is so specific, they are not in the demand supply for industrial land.

Ms. Fata Carpenter seconded concerns about Live Local not being a factor in population estimates. Ms. Fata Carpenter asked for clarification on redevelopment calculations on properties such as malls. Mr. Armada affirmed that these redevelopments do factor into these estimates. He made a point that while these redevelopments are a factor, part of these redevelopments include properties like mobile home parks. In calculating properties like that, the dislocation of existing residents is also a factor in those analyses. Ms. Fata Carpenter asked how frequently these calculations occur. Mr. Armada said these occur regularly, but the reports are produced with each cycle (3 times a year).

Mr. Motes stated he thought factors related to immigration, population, and enforcement complicates the analysis. Enforcement seems to vary by locale. Outward immigration of workforce and cost of housing complicates the housing crisis.

## Presentation #2: Regional Restoration Policy

This presentation was made by Mr. James Duncan, Chief of the Urban Forest and Tree Division with the Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM). Mr. Duncan started off by examining Miami-Dade's past and current natural environment, including pine rockland, rockland hammock, costal and freshwater wetlands, tree islands, sloughs, coastal strand, and others. Mr. Duncan provided an overview of the Federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and described how the County supports the effort. Mr. Duncan also provided an overview of the County's Environmentally Endangered Lands program. The presentation provided an overview of the historic hydrology of south Florida, showing the relationship of Lake Okeechobee to Biscayne Bay, and how this has changed over time to the current hydrology. Mr. Duncan highlighted CDMP policies that relate to ecosystem restoration including LU-3J, LU-8G, and CON-7J, CON-8F, CON-8G, CON-9A, and CON-9D.

## Task Force Discussion

Mr. Grosso asked for clarification on the CERP planning process, specifically whether we have restored all the land that is needed to support Biscayne Bay and the Everglades. Mr. Duncan replied that we absolutely have not. It's been 25 years so far but there is still a long way to go. He mentioned that there are ongoing meetings of the CERP subteams to evaluate the project designs.

Mr. Grosso further inquired about how land use changes can impact CERP. Mr. Duncan replied that it can eliminate a portion of the footprint needed which can be limiting. In response to a question from Mr. Grosso about the economic impact of Biscayne Bay and Everglades to the County, Mr. Duncan replied that the Bay has \$64 billion in economic benefits, not including the Everglades. Mr. Grosso asked whether lands available to meet restoration objectives are plentiful. Mr. Duncan replied that the restoration projects are dynamic based on specified targets, performance measures, and economic factors.

Mr. Grosso inquired about the flood protection and water supply benefits the County receives from the Everglades. Mr. Duncan was not sure about the quantification of those aspects but noted that those are key factors in ecosystem restoration.

In response to a question from Ms. Fata Carpenter regarding the value of ecosystem restoration to our drinking water, Mr. Duncan noted that the issue will be addressed in detail at the next meeting. Ms. Fata Carpenter further inquired about the County's investment in ecosystem restoration through the EEL program. Ms. Brown indicated that staff will follow up with specific numbers. Ms. Fata Carpenter noted that the Everglades Foundation conducted a study that found that the Everglades has a \$1 trillion economic benefit. Ms. Fata Carpenter requested a map showing the location of the BBSEER tentatively selected plan in relation to the Urban Expansion Areas. Ms. Brown clarified that we currently only have a preliminary tentatively selected plan. It is expected to be considered for approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in June 2026 at which point, if approved, it will become the Tentatively Selected Plan.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Grossenbacher noted that the reason we have such high quality drinking water is due to the Everglades and our limestone geology. He highlighted the recent completion of the CERP Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project and noted that many County owned properties were conveyed for the restoration project.

Ms. Soria mentioned concerns expressed by the County's Agricultural Practices Advisory Board (APAB) about flooding as a result of ecosystem restoration efforts. She mentioned that USACE will be undertaking a real estate analysis to ascertain the need for land acquisition as part of BBSEER. Additional information is expected to be provided at the May 2026 meeting of the APAB.

Ms. Fata Carpenter asked for information on future CERP projects including those in the Yellow Book and the upcoming Southern Everglades Restoration Project. Ms. Brown noted that information could be provided on the Yellow Book projects but cautioned that the

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<sup>1</sup> This sentence was corrected to reflect review by USACE in June 2026 rather than May 2026 as was stated.

information will not reflect additional analysis that has occurred since those projects were proposed in 1999.

Mr. Grosso noted that CERP is complex but it's working and the completed projects are meeting the goals. The CDMP effectively ensures that we do not lose land that is needed for things such as agriculture and environmental functions. When land use changes are approved prematurely, it drives up land values thereby complicating efforts to acquire lands needed for restoration. Mr. Grossenbacher added that the USACE must consider land use entitlements when evaluating restoration projects so those decisions can greatly impact land valuations and cost estimates. Mr. Bercow further commented that property owners have the right to seek entitlements up until the time the land is taken by a governmental entity. Mr. Grosso stated that there is no right on the part of a property owner to have their property rezoned, it is a discretionary policy choice for the local government. Mr. Grossenbacher noted that BBCW took about 20 years to acquire the land, almost entirely from willing sellers. He noted that, in the past, even developed properties have been sold for ecosystem restoration by willing sellers. Mr. Bercow stated that a pending study that has not been finalized should not prevent local government from considering a development application. If it is finally determined that the site is within a CERP footprint, that is another issue.

### **Presentation #3: Threatened and Endangered Species**

This presentation was made by Mr. Lazaro Quintino, Manager, Tree and Forest Resources Section and Ms. Martha Garcia-Lastre, Senior Manager, Natural Resources Division. The presentation focused on CDMP goals, objectives and policies relevant to protection of threatened and endangered species, including CON-7, CON-7A, CON-8, CON-8D, CON-8J, CON-9, CON-9A, and CON-9B. The presentation highlighted critical habitat designation within the County, consultation areas for the Florida Bonneted Bat, and manatee protection areas. The presentation highlighted evaluation factors that are considered when reviewing projects for consistency with the aforementioned CDMP goals, objectives and policies. Ms. Brown added that the policies of the CDMP protect habitat that is critical to threatened and endangered species which can extend beyond habitat that has been designated at the federal and state level.

### **Task Force Discussion**

Mr. Grosso asked about the impact of development being located in close proximity to environmentally sensitive areas. Mr. Quintino indicated that development in close proximity can lead to illegal dumping on the preservation site. He also indicated that development restrictions sometimes include requirements for the management of the preserve which can

be a benefit. These are fire dependent habitats, ideal management would allow for prescribed burning. Roads located along the perimeter of the preserve can serve as fire breaks. Mr. Grosso stated that the policies seem to particularly protect high quality environmental land and inquired about protections for moderate and low-quality areas. Mr. Quintino noted that they do look at the quality of the habitat. He gave an example of a site that was heavily impacted by road construction and Brazilian Pepper so their recommendations focused on the higher quality areas.

Mr. Roth asked whether the County steps in to purchase environmentally sensitive areas when located on development sites or if it's incumbent on the developer to preserve and manage the area. Mr. Quintino said there are many different options, sometimes developers will want to donate the property as is the case with the example provided in the presentation. A special taxing districts can also be established for management of the preserve. Mr. Roth further inquired about Miami-Dade County's policy and budget toward buying private land for preservation. Ms. Spadafina described the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program that purchases properties from willing sellers. The EEL program is separated into an A list and B list. The A list properties are most valuable to the County for many reasons, including CERP and critical habitat. The B list typical includes buffer lands and lands less vulnerable to development. In terms of funding, EEL is always in a deficit. In the 1990s we had a referendum and that got the County's initial funding. There is currently no reliable funding. The program targets environmental land located both inside and outside of the UDB.

Ms. Oyenuga asked about how many acres have been protected since the last EAR. Ms. Gomez noted that protection can occur as part of development applications or through EEL acquisition. Mr. Quintino offered to follow up with the number of acres that have been preserved through private development applications. Ms. Oyenuga further inquired about the County's efforts to ensure connectivity of critical habitats, both inside and outside of the UDB. Within EEL, the goal is to acquire land that provides species connectivity. From the regulatory perspective, we look at "stepping stones" between environmentally sensitive areas that prevent manmade disturbances to the habitat. Ms. Oyenuga further inquired about whether the EEL program includes specific criteria to address connectivity. Ms. Spadafina noted that the EEL review is parcel specific so it varies. She noted that, on the regulatory side, CDMP policies under Objective CON-8 encourage the preservation of pine rocklands as part of the project's landscaping requirements when located on a development site. Ms. Gomez noted that the County invests at least \$1M per year on tree planting along rights-of-way inside of the UDB. This might provide an opportunity to strengthen the policies

to encourage these programs to emphasize habitat support. Mr. Quintano noted that upland habitats are already so fragmented that it is challenging to achieve connectivity.

Mr. Grossenbacher asked whether it is still County policy to allow applicants to develop up to 20% of pine rocklands when located on a private development site further noting that, in large projects, this can mean the loss of hundreds or thousands of trees in critically imperiled pine rockland without the requirement for mitigation. Ms. Gomez noted that Senate Bill 180 will keep us from addressing it in the near term. The idea behind the policy is to strike a balance between allowing for some beneficial use of the property and gaining preservation. She stated that staff is working on updates to the County's Landscape Code that will amplify the mitigation requirements. Mr. Grossenbacher suggested that the policy could be strengthened for public lands without being up against Senate Bill 180. He further inquired about the implementation status of recommendations from a Butterfly Report that was provided to the BCC.<sup>2</sup> Ms. Gomez indicated that staff would follow up. Ms. Spadafina noted that the low hanging fruit might be to implement those recommendations in areas that don't have a funding constraint. Mr. Grossenbacher further noted that the recommendations of the Butterfly Report should be incorporated into CDMP policy.

Mr. De Mayo identified the County's Tree Master Plan which envisions networks of tree-lined streets that can be good for missing middle housing by encouraging walkability, and also good for environmental connectivity.<sup>3</sup> He also expressed support for encouraging connectivity through greenways and blueways as recommended in the County's Resilience Master Plan.<sup>4</sup> He noted that there are tree canopy goals that we are not currently meeting and discussed legislation being proposed by the City of Miami that would allow for transfer of development rights for properties that contain specimen trees to encourage preservation. This could be considered for County policy as well.

Mr. Motes noted that one of the greatest disruptions in pinelands in the 1960s, was when the County stopped giving farmers an agricultural exemption for pineland. He stressed the importance of programs that encourage planting of native plants.

Ms. Oyenuga stated that, historically, Miami-Dade County residents have voted to tax themselves to fund conservation. Discussion ensued with staff regarding the bond

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<sup>2</sup> This comment relates to the County Mayor's response to Board Resolution No. R-135-22 which can be accessed at <https://documents.miamidade.gov/mayor/memos/09.13.24-report-feasibility-of-fpl-and-miami-blue-chapter-north-am-butterfly-association.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> This comment appears to relate to the County's 2025 Urban Forestry Plan which can be accessed at <https://www.miamidade.gov/economy/library/urban-forestry-plan.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> This comment appears to relate to the County's Sea Level Rise Strategy which can be accessed at <https://miami-dade-county-sea-level-rise-strategy-draft-mdc.hub.arcgis.com/>

referendum that led to funding for the Environmentally Endangered Lands in the 1990s. She asked whether a similar effort is being considered again. Ms. Spadafina noted that it is currently being considered as an option and is included as a recommendation in the County's Urban Forestry Plan.

There being no additional comments, Ms. Brown noted that the presentation on Biscayne Bay would be moved to the January meeting.

## Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.